AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the instant application. Claim 29 was amended to clarify the claim language to further prosecution. Claims 1, 18, 24 and 29 have been amended to further clarify the claim language. Claims 1, 18, 24 and 29 are independent claims. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A server, comprising:

a network connector;

a processor coupled to the network connector, the processor operable to process a plurality of different types of network traffic, wherein each of said plurality of different types of network traffic corresponds to a different network protocol;

a peripheral component interface (PCI) bridge coupled to the processor; and

a unified driver coupled to the PCI bridge, the unified driver operable to provide drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic.

2. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the network connector comprises an Ethernet connector.

3. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

4. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a single integrated chip.

5. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor comprises a layer 2 network interface card (L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor and a ULP processor.

6. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor provides layer 3 processing and layer 4 processing.

7. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the TCP processor is shared by two or more of TCP offload traffic, Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) traffic and/or RDMA traffic.

8. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides iSCSI processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 5, wherein the ULP processor provides RDMA processing.

10. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a server management agent coupled to the processor.

11. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the server management agent is coupled to a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

12. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of services coupled to the unified driver.

13. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of services comprises two or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

14. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1,

wherein the unified driver is coupled to a software TCP processor and to a socket service switch,

wherein the software TCP processor is coupled to the socket service switch, and

wherein the socket service switch is coupled to a socket service.

15. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor or the PCI bridge determines which of the different types of network traffic accesses a particular service provided by the server.

16. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 15, wherein the particular service comprises one or more of a socket service, a SCSI miniport service, an RDMA service and/or a keyboard and/or video and/or mouse service.

17. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 1, wherein the processor, the PCI bridge or the unified driver provides a unified data and control path.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a layer 2 (L2) connector, wherein each of said plurality of different types of network traffic corresponds to a different network protocol;

processing the different types of network traffic in a single chip; and

determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of different types of network traffic comprises two or more of common Ethernet traffic, offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the L2 connector is a single L2 connector.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software

services via a single data path comprises employing time division multiplexing to determine which of the different types of network traffic access the software services via the single data path.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said determining which of the different types of network traffic accesses software services via a single data path comprises dynamically allocating fixed resources between among the different types of network traffic.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, comprising:

providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a unified driver.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for network interfacing, comprising:

handling a plurality of different types of network traffic via a single Ethernet connector, wherein each of said plurality of different types of network traffic corresponds to a different network protocol;

processing the plurality of different types of network traffic using a layer 2 (L2) processor, a layer 3 (L3) processor, a layer 4 (L4) processor and an upper layer protocol (ULP) processor; and

providing a unified data and control path.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L2 processor comprises a single L2 network interface card (NIC).

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the L3 processor and the L4 processor are combined into a single TCP processor.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the ULP processor comprises one or both of an Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) processor and/or a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, comprising:

providing drivers associated with the plurality of different types of network traffic via a single unified driver.

29. (Currently Amended) A unified driver, ~~embodied as~~ comprising:

a computer program executable on a computer system, having at least one code section for arranging and processing network traffic, wherein the at least one code section ~~being executable by the computer system for causing~~ causes the computer system to perform steps comprising: executing said at least one code section from said unified driver in said computer system to handle a plurality of different types of network traffics and/or network services via a single PCI bridge, wherein each of said plurality of different types of network traffic corresponds to a different network protocol, and the network services comprise

two or more of a socket service, storage service, RDMA service or keyboard/video/mouse service.

30. (Previously Presented) The unified driver computer program on a computer system of claim 29, comprising coupling said single PCI bridge to an integrated chip to concurrently process a plurality of network traffics.

31. (Previously Presented) The unified driver computer program on a computer system of claim 30, wherein said plurality of network traffics comprise two or more of offload traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, management traffic and/or remote direct memory access (RDMA) traffic.